

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00

OMB-01 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10 /149 W

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P R 221708Z APR 77

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2412

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS MTN GENEVA 3007

PASS STR

H PASS CODEL

E.O.11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, OCON, MTN

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR STRAUSS' PRESS CONFERENCE

AMBASSADOR STRAUSS' APRIL 21 PRESS CONFERENCE AT GENEVA, WHICH WAS WELL ATTENDED, HAS RESULTED IN SOME COVERAGE IN NEWSPAPERS OF APRIL 22. HOWEVER, NO MENTION HAS YET BEEN MADE IN THE TIMES OF LONDON, THE FRENCH PRESS AND THE GERMAN PRESS.

1. THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD-TRIBUNE CARRIED AN AP-DJ STORY WITH THE CAPTION "ACTION SEEN ON WAY AT TOKYO ROUND-U.S. SAID TO WANT END TO TALKS." THE ARTICLE FOCUSED ON AMBASSADOR STRAUSS' COMMENTS THAT THE TIME TO START MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS IS NOW AND THAT THE PRESEIDENT HAS PUT THE ISSUE OF TRADE LIBERALIZATION ON THE "FRONT BURNER." THE ARTICLE STATES THAT IT IS AMBASSADOR STRAUSS' UNDERSTANDING
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THAT THE EC IS ALSO READY TO START SERIOUS TALKS. ALSO ATTRIBUTED TO AMBASSADOR STRAUSS ARE HIS COMMENTS THAT "THERE IS EVERY POSSIBILITY THAT THE TALKS COULD BE CONCLUDED IN ONE YEAR" AND THAT HE EXPECTS THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT NEXT MONTH IN LONDON TO PROVIDE THE MTN WITH STRONG SUPPORT, "ALMOST A COMMAND TO GET ON WITH THE JOB."

2. THE JOURNAL DE GENEVE REPORTS THAT AMBASSADOR STRAUSS DECLARED THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS DECIDED TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO GET THE MTN MOVING AND THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL USE THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT TO URGE OTHER COUNTRIES TO DO THE SAME. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, AMBASSADOR STRAUSS OPINED THAT AGRICULTURE CONSTITUTED THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE MTN AND THAT HE BELIEVES THE EC IS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY ON THIS POINT. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON THE INCREASING PROTECTIONIST TENDENCY IN THE U.S. AMBASSADOR STRAUSS IS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT THIS IS PRECISELY WHY PROGRESS MUST BE MADE IN THE MTN.

3. THE FINANCIAL TIMES, IN AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "U.S. WARNING OVER TOKYO TRADE TALKS," REPORTED ON AMBASSADOR STRAUSS' WARNING THAT THERE IS A GENERAL FRUSTRATION OVER THE LACK OF CONCRETE PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT THE PRESIDENT IS DETERMINED TO GIVE A SENSE OF URGENCY TO THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE ARTICLE, WHICH IS ATTRIBUTED TO AN AP-DJ SOURCE, QUOTES AMBASSADOR STRAUSS AS SAYING THE PRESIDENT'S ENERGY PROGRAM HAS "TREMENDOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR TRADE" AND THAT EQUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE WITH AMERICA'S TRADING PARTNERS. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT TO SERVE AS AN IMPETUS FOR THE MTN IS ALSO MENTIONED. THE ARTICLE ALSO STATES THAT: (1) THE U.S. HAS ALREADY MADE THE NECESSARY POLITICAL DECISION TO HAVE THE NEGOTIATIONS SUCCEED, (2) AMBASSADOR STRAUSS BELIEVES AGRICULTURE TO BE THE MAJOR PROBLEM AREA, AND (3) AMBASSADOR STRAUSS BELIEVES THE EC IS NOW PREPARED TO GET DOWN TO SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS. WALKER

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Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Subject: AMBASSADOR STRAUSS\ PRESS CONFERENCE AMBASSADOR STRAUSS\ APRIL 21 PRESS CONFERENCE AT GENEVA, WHICH WAS WELL ATTENDED, HAS RESULTED IN SOME COVE
TAGS: ETRD, OCON, SOPN, US, MTN, (STRAUSS, ROBERT)
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